

CLAIMS:

1. A method for generating a multi-dimensional data structure in order to access data associated with a plurality of data sources, said plurality of data sources having a different number of dimensions than said multi-dimensional data structure, said method comprising the steps of:
 - defining at least one dimension, a dimension value, an attribute and an attribute value for said multi-dimensional data structure;
 - creating a combination, wherein said combination defines a data item;
 - mapping said multi-dimensional data structure to said data source;
 - determining a location of a gap; and
 - documenting said gap by determining how said gap was bridged.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said multi-dimensional data structure is defined by a first set of data items and said plurality of data sources is defined by a second set of data items and wherein said determining step includes the step of establishing a difference between said first set of data items and said second set of data items.
3. The method of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said gap is bridged at said plurality of data sources.
4. The method of any preceding claim, wherein said attribute is assigned to a single dimension.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein each said dimension value is associated with a dimension and said attribute value is associated with an attribute.
6. The method of any preceding claim, wherein said step of creating a combination includes the step of linking two or more dimensions for said combination created.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein said step of mapping said multi-dimensional data structure to said plurality of data sources includes the step of mapping said combination for a dimension value to a source structure.
8. The method of any preceding claim, further comprising the step of creating a mapping file for historic data conversion.
9. The method of any preceding claim, further comprising the step of generating a report, wherein said report is a combination, a hierarchy or a mapping report.
10. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine, said instructions for generating a new multi-dimensional chart of accounts that is used to access data associated with a plurality of charts of accounts, wherein said plurality of charts of accounts has a different number of dimensions than said new multi-dimensional chart of accounts, the program storage device executing the steps of:

defining at least one dimension, a dimension value, an attribute and
an attribute value for said new multi-dimensional chart of accounts;
creating a combination, wherein said combination defines a data item;

mapping said new multi-dimensional chart of accounts to said plurality of charts of accounts;
determining a location of a gap; and
documenting said gap by determining how said gap was bridged.

11. The program storage device of claim 10, wherein said multi-dimensional data structure is defined by a first set of data items and said plurality of data sources is defined by a second set of data items and wherein said determining step includes the step of establishing a difference between said first set of data items and said second set of data items.
12. The program storage device of claim 10 or claim 11, wherein said gap is bridged at said plurality of charts of accounts.
13. The program storage device of any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein said attribute is assigned to a single dimension.
14. The program storage device of claim 13, wherein said dimension value is associated with a dimension and said attribute value is associated with an attribute.
15. The program storage device of claim 14, wherein said dimension is at least one of a dimension for a product, an industry classification and a maturity.
16. The program storage device of claim 15, wherein said dimension value associated with said product dimension is one of corporate loans, mortgages, home credits and personal loans.

17. The program storage device of any one of claims 10 to 16, wherein said step of creating a combination includes linking two or more dimensions for said combination created.

18. The program storage device of claim 17, wherein said step of mapping said new multi-dimensional chart of accounts to a plurality of charts of accounts includes the step of mapping said combination for a dimension value to said plurality of charts of accounts.

19. The program storage device of any one of claims 10 to 18, further comprising the step of creating a mapping file for historic data conversion.

20. The program storage device of any one of claims 10 to 19, further comprising the step of generating a report, wherein said report is a combination, a hierarchy or a mapping report.

21. A tool for generating a multi-dimensional data structure for integrating data from a plurality of data sources, wherein said plurality of data sources having a different number of dimensions than said multi-dimensional data structure, said tool comprising:

- a relational database;

- a processor;

- a data structure generator, wherein said data structure generator defines at least one dimension, a dimension value, an attribute and an attribute value;

- a combination module for creating and retrieving a combination;

a mapping module for mapping a new data structure to said plurality of data structures; and

a gap detector and resolver for locating and documenting how gaps are bridged.

22. The tool of claim 21, wherein said tool is in communication with said plurality of data sources via an electronic network.
23. The tool of claim 21 or claim 22, wherein said gaps are bridged at said plurality of data sources.
24. The tool of any one of claims 21 to 23, wherein said combination module creates a combination by linking two or more dimensions.
25. The tool of any one of claims 21 to 24, further comprising a mapping file module for creating a mapping file used for historic data conversion.
26. The tool of any one of claims 21 to 25, further comprising a report generator for generating a report, wherein said report is a combination, a hierarchy or a mapping report.